

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR/G:DCNORTON:RC

APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

ARA/CAR:JRBURKE

EB/IFD/OIA:DSTEBBING

S/S - MR. MOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 244753

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN EINV GY US

SUBJECT: GUYANA-REYNOLDS DISPUTE - MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR

TALBOT

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 1925

1. IN RESPONSE TO GOG PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND PRESS CAMPAIGN
CRITICIZING USG AND REYNOLDS. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SHLAUDEMAN IS CALLING IN GUYANESE AMBASSDOR TALBOT ON
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7 TO MAKE FOLLOWING DEMARCHE:

"PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM RECENTLY TOLD AMBASSADOR KREBS
THAT HE SAW NO REASON WHY REYNOLDS DISPUTE SHOULD CAUSE
BILATERAL RELATIONS TO DETERIORATE. WE LIKEWISE DO NOT
WISH TO HAVE THE REYNOLDS DISPUTE ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR
OVERALL BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

"WE ARE SURPRISED AND DISMAYED THAT RANKING GOG OFFICIALS,
IN RECENT STATEMENTS, HAVE DISTORTED USG POLICY, EVEN TO
THE POINT OF PRESENTING THE USG AS GUYANA'S "MAIN ENEMY."

WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND ARTICLES IN
THE PRESS ARE NOT ONLY UNJUSTIFIED, BUT ALSO CREATE

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AN UNFAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE FOR RESOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE

WITH REYNOLDS OR DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS.

"WE HAVE CONTINUALLY SOUGHT TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOG OVER THE REYNOLDS ISSUE AND ARE PUZZLED AT STATEMENTS THAT APPEAR INTENDED TO CREATE OBSTACLES TO A SETTLEMENT.

"WE HAVE ENDEAVORED TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE GOG OUR POLICY ON EXPROPRIATION; WE HAVE GIVEN COPIES OF THE PERTINENT LEGISLATION AND OF THE PRESIDENT'S 1972 POLICY STATEMENT TO THE GUYANESE EMBASSY AND TO THE GOG IN GEORGETOWN. THEREFORE, WE CONSIDER RECENT STATEMENTS INDICATING MISUNDERSTANDING OR MISREPRESENTING OUR POLICY TO BE UNFORTUNATE.

"WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE INFLAMMATORY STATEMENTS DIRECTED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES COULD LEAD TO ATTACKS OR THREATS AGAINST USG PERSONNEL OR FACILITIES IN GUYANA. WE WOULD NOT WANT THE GOG TO SHARE RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH ITS PUBLIC STATEMENTS FOR ANY SUCH OCCURRENCE.

"WE CONTINUE TO URGE NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GOG AND REYNOLDS.

"THE USG STANDS READY TO OFFER ITS GOOD OFFICES IN ASSISTING THE PARTIES TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT."

2. DEPT'S DEMARCHE IS DIRECTED TO THE TONE OF THE OVERALL PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN RATHER THAN DESIGNED TO BE A SPECIFIC REBUTTAL OF PM BURNHAM'S SPEECH OF OCTOBER 27. INGERSOLL

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